

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of the claims replaces any prior listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating melanoma comprising:
 - (a) administering to a ~~host~~ mammal a composition comprising a nucleic acid encoding a melanoma-associated tumor antigen as the sole active pharmaceutical agent such that the host develops an immune response against the tumor antigen; and,
 - (b) subsequently administering at least 10 MU/m²/day interferon alpha 2b (IFN- α 2b) as the sole active pharmaceutical agent to the ~~host~~ mammal;whereby the combination of steps a) and b) provides an enhanced T cell response in the ~~host~~ mammal relative to that which occurs following step a) alone.
- 2-3. Previously cancelled.
4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within a plasmid or a viral vector.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of poxvirus, adenovirus, retrovirus, herpesvirus, and adeno-associated virus.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of vaccinia, NYVAC, MVA, avipox, canarypox, ALVAC, ALVAC(2), fowlpox, and TROVAC.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of NYVAC, ALVAC, and ALVAC(2).
- 8-10. Previously cancelled.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MART-1/Melan A, gp75/TRP-1, tyrosinase, NY-ESO-1, melanoma proteoglycan, a MAGE antigen, a BAGE antigen, a DAGE antigen, a GAGE antigen, a fragment thereof, and a derivative thereof.

12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MAGE-1, MAGE-2, MAGE-3, MAGE-4, MAGE-6, MAGE-12, MAGE-51, GAGE-1, and GAGE-2.
13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is gp100.
14. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a poxviral vector encoding the melanoma-associated tumor antigen.
15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14 wherein poxviral vector is an ALVAC vector.
- 16-17. Previously cancelled
18. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least two times per week for at least two weeks.
19. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least three times per week for at least two weeks.
20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least four times per week for at least two weeks.
21. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least five times per week for at least two weeks.
22. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 20 MU/m²/day at least five times per week for at least four weeks.
23. Previously cancelled
24. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2).

25. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
26. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
27. Cancelled
28. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising step c) in which IFN α 2b is administered at a dosage reduced by 33% of the amount of IFN α 2b administered in step b).
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of IFN α 2b is administered in step c) is at least 6 MU/m²/day.
30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the ALVAC vector is ALVAC(2).
31. Previously cancelled
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) is not repeated after step (b).
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising, between steps a) and b), administering to the host a composition comprising the peptides YLEPGPVTV and IMDQVPFSV as the sole active pharmaceutical agents.
37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) occurs between about 1.5 and 17 months after step (a).
38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the host shows no evidence of melanoma disease progression following step (b).

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the host shows no radiological evidence of the melanoma metastases following step (b).